

# The Living Word of the Buddha

The Buddha's Teachings in the Oldest Texts

Translations, essays and notes by Piya Tan ©2012

## Volume 38

2012

### *Love & compassion*

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*Love is the wisdom and action as if others are our mirrors*

Suttas: <http://dharmafarer.org>; Courses: <http://themindingcentre.org>

SUTTADISCOVERY38

*Love & compassion*

2012

ISBN 978-981-07-3178-6

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Printed in Singapore

**THE MINDING CENTRE**, based in Singapore, is part of Piya Tan’s Dharma ministry. It was founded in 2006 to provide Dharma-based non-religious service to those in need of counsel and solace. It also serves as a haven and hub for those seeking Dharma by way of meditation and education, Sutta study and translation, and spiritual experience. The Centre also supports and promotes Piya Tan in his full-time Buddhist and related work.

**Courses:** <http://themindingcentre.org>

**THE SUTTA DISCOVERY SERIES** is part of the Living Word of the Buddha project which aspires to encourage and facilitate Buddhist Studies, both in a Dharma-inspired and academic manner for personal development as well as outreach work on a local and global scale. The Minding Centre and the Living Word of the Buddha project are motivated and guided by the vision of mere Buddhism.

**Suttas:** <http://dharmafarer.org>

**THE MERE BUDDHIST VISION.** We aspire to learn, teach and practise mere Dharma, or “non-religious Buddhism,” that is, Buddhism as simple as possible, as the Buddha Dharma, so that it is open to all who seek true stillness and liberating wisdom. We aspire to compassionately and joyfully proclaim the possibility, necessity and urgency of gaining spiritual liberation in this life itself—at least as a streamwinner, with or without dhyana—in keeping with the Okkanti Saṃyutta (S 25). ***Mere Buddhism is easy: live it and be free***

Piya Tan (TAN Beng Sin), 1949-  
Title: Sutta Discovery vol 38. Theme: Love & compassion  
Series: The living word of the Buddha (2002- )  
First published 2012; publisher: the author  
ISBN 978-981-07-3178-6

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*WE GIVE  
for the sake of a beautiful mind,  
as a support for the mind (in inner peace).  
(Aṭṭha Dāna Sutta, A 8.31/4:236)*

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The Buddha's Teachings

in the Earliest Texts

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*Make this a gift to a monastic or someone who needs it*

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This series will also help you **learn and master the Pali Canon**: to locate suttas, teachings and stories, and have an idea of how Suttas are transmitted and translated. Wherever feasible, comparative studies are made between the Pali, Sanskrit and Chinese (Āgama) versions of the suttas. If you can read this message, you are ready to study the Sutta translations. No deep knowledge of Buddhism is needed. [For 20 reasons for the SD series, see flier.]

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## **SUTTA DISCOVERY**

### **Directly seeing the Buddha's Teachings**

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The most direct way to learn Buddhism is to read and live the Pali suttas which contain some of the oldest records we have of the Buddha's teachings. As we search these scriptures, we will discover ourselves amidst their stories, teachings and practices, and even take a first step towards spiritual awakening.

This series will also help you **learn and master the Pali Canon**: to locate suttas, teachings and stories, and have an idea of how Suttas are transmitted and translated. Wherever feasible, comparative studies are made between the Pali, Sanskrit and Chinese (Āgama) versions of the suttas. Although a very basic knowledge of Buddhism (Five Precepts, etc) is helpful, no knowledge of these languages is required for this course. This class is suitable for beginner and mid-range level.

The Sutta Discovery (SD) series started with **the NUS Buddhist Society** weekly Sutta Study Group (SSG) classes in February 2002, and **the Buddhist Fellowship** SD series started in February 2003. These classes are still running today. This is a small record for an ongoing activity, especially Sutta study.

**Piya Tan**, who works on these Suttas and notes, and teaches them, was a former **Theravada monk** for 20 years. Today he is a full time lay Dharma teacher specializing in early Buddhism. He was consultant and regular lecturer to the Buddhist Studies Team (BUDS) that successfully introduced **Buddhist Studies in Singapore Secondary Schools** in the 1980s. After that, he was invited as a visiting scholar to **the University of California at Berkeley, USA**. He has written many ground-breaking and educational books on Buddhism (such as *Total Buddhist Work*) and social surveys (such as *Buddhist Currents* and *Charisma in Buddhism*). As a **full-time Dharma teacher**, he runs Buddhist, Sutta and Pali classes like the basic Pali course series, the Sutta Study Group (NUSBS), Dharma courses (the Singapore Buddhist Federation), Sutta Discovery classes (Buddhist Fellowship and elsewhere), and Sutta-based (including meditation) courses (Brahm Education Centre), besides his own full-time **Pali translation and research project**, the Pali House, and doing a comparative study of the Pali Nikāyas and the Chinese Āgamas. As a Theravāda monk, he learned insight meditation from **Mahasi Sayadaw** himself in the 1980s. As a lay teacher, he learned forest meditation from the **Ajahn Brahmavamso**. He has run numerous **meditation courses and retreats** for students and adults (including non-Buddhists) since 1980s. In 1992, he taught meditation at the University of California at Berkeley, USA, and also to BP, JPMorgan, the Defence Science Organization, GMO, HP and SIA. He is doing all this for the love of Dharma and of Ratna and their two children.

# KEEPING BUDDHISM CENTRED

Sutta translations: <http://dharmafarer.org>

As people today become more aware of Buddhism, many seek the simple original teachings of the Buddha. For over two decades now, Piya Tan has been inspired by this ideal of “mere Buddhism.” In this connection, he has set up the Minding Centre and Pali House.

## The Minding Centre

*A still centre in life's storms*

170, Upper Bukit Timah Road, #11-04, Bukit Timah Shopping Centre,  
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**Personal sessions:** Meditation coaching; Meditation therapy; Counselling (problems related to work, relationship, sleep, stress, anxiety, etc).

## Pali House

On Vesak Day, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2006, Pali House was born, fulfilling Piya's long-time dream for living space that is spacious, quiet and conducive for his Dharma work.

- Pali House has one of the most complete set of early Buddhist scripture (texts and translations).
- The translating of the early Buddhist scripture in the **Sutta Discovery** series is done at Pali House.

Pali House is possible through the generosity of the Buddhist community and various individuals like yourself who have generously and regularly contributed to Piya Tan's work. He is doing full-time lay Dharma work without any salary. As such, your continued support will greatly help our Dharma work.

## How you can help

- Support for Piya Tan's full time Buddhist work (especially the Sutta Translation & related projects).
- Sponsor the Minding Centre monthly rental (\$2200) & maintenance cost, etc.
- Help with the Dharmafarer website (<http://dharmafarer.org>) through your expertise and time.
- Introduce people to the Minding Centre and advertise our activities to your friends, etc.
- Donate to cost of computer peripherals and printing, especially laser printer toner and A4 copy paper.
- Sponsor purchases of Buddhist scriptures, books and materials (for the Sutta Translation library).
- Contribute to **the Sutta publication fund** (for printing costs of study notes and SD books, etc).
- Encourage relatives and friends to offer dāna together for merit of happy togetherness.
- After making such offerings or acts of merit, make this **Dharmafarer aspiration**:

*May this merit bring my mind peace and wisdom.*

*May I enter the path of streamwinning in this life itself.*

**To pledge or donate**, please make your cheque payable to **“The Minding Centre”** & mail it to:

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To join our classes and activities, please email us at [dharmafarer@gmail.com](mailto:dharmafarer@gmail.com).

# Meditation & related courses by Piya Tan

## 1 Meditation & the Mind

**WHAT, WHY & HOW of meditation: for absolute beginners as well as meditators.**

- **The three brains** (lizard brain, limbic region, neo-cortex); meditation stages.
- **The body-mind**; feeling & emotions: their significant differences.
- **The brain during meditation**: how the mind calms and clears itself.
- **How the mind works moment to moment**; mindfulness in daily life.
- **Meditation methods**; basic practice sessions; how to gauge your progress.
- **What scientists are doing with meditation** during the last decades.



## 2 Psychology of Death & Living

**For those interested in true lasting happiness, meaning & purpose of life, rebirth**

- The last 48 hours of life.
- What happens when we die?
- Can we communicate with the dead?
- Dealing with fear and pain.
- How to help the dead? Merit transfer?
- The 12 links of life, death, and rebirth.
- The four tasks of grief.
- Gods, demons and ghosts: do they exist?
- Have we lived before, will we live again?
- Is rebirth immediate or takes 49 days?
- Have we lived before, will we live again?
- The Tibetan Book of the Dead.

## 3 Buddhist Psychology: mind, consciousness & well-being

**For anyone interested in the mind, mental health, self-knowledge.**

- ✓ **Healing yourself**: How the mind creates problems: 2 kinds of pain; perception.
- ✓ **Brain or mind?** Neuroplasticity: how the mind grows the brain & repairs it.
- ✓ **The conscious body**: Mind-body interbeing (the 5 aggregates of being).
- ✓ **The unconscious**: How the mind really works, or are we really in control?
- ✓ **Minding the mind**: Mental distractions and the nature of attention; consciousness.
- ✓ **The art of loving**: Negative emotions & healing emotions; sexuality; types of love.
- ✓ **Don't believe everything you think**: Unconscious defence mechanisms & coping skills.
- ✓ **Non-judgement day is here**: Mindfulness training in daily life (meditation).
- ✓ **Ancient wisdom, modern science**: Recent developments in Buddhist psychology.

## 4 Practical Buddhist Counselling *for beginners*

**Buddhist counselling** self-counselling and how to listen & respond to others when they have problems. How to be your own therapist.

**WHY BUDDHIST COUNSELLING?**

- Focuses on self-help; no need to tell problems to others.
- No medication or expensive therapy; goes to the *root* of the problem.
- Focuses on emotional resilience; discuss well-known case studies.
- Based on 2500 years of practical wisdom (incl meditation therapy).



For other course & more information: 🌐 <http://themindingcentre.org>  
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- ✓ Deep rest
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- ✓ Increase attention span
- ✓ Get well faster
- ✓ Be happy & age healthily
- ✓ Emotional resilience

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2. Why & how to meditate
3. Overcoming mental hindrances
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7. Self-healing
8. Emotional resilience
9. Sleeping well

## Interesting meditation facts:

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- Meditation is a mainstream practice in Australia, the USA & the West
- Meditation can heal the mind and body
- Meditation helps increase attention span & productivity
- Meditation keeps the mind healthily active as we age (neuroplasticity)

## COURSE INSTRUCTOR: PIYA TAN

- meditation therapist; 63 years old; a monk for 20 years
  - has taught meditation for over 30 years
  - has taught at the Univ of California @ Berkeley, Defence Science Organization, GMO, SIA, HP, Hitachi, JPMorgan, BP, etc
  - mentor and meditation instructor to various executives and individuals
  - referrals from doctors, social workers, etc
  - now translating and teaching early Indian texts on meditation and psychology.
- Wiki Piya: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piya\\_Tan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piya_Tan)

## **The Minding Centre**

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